

Dying in 1952. It is a place where the poorest of people are loved, held, fed and given medicines to ease their pain while they die.

At the orphanage, Eaton saw little babies who were deformed and children who seemed listless and unaccustomed to human touch. "The people there have such a great need for attention and love," he said. "People were dirty, but that's not a reason not to touch them. Who am I to deny them love?"

Upon meeting Mother Teresa's successor, Sister Nirmala, Eaton said the diminutive nun told him, "Love until it hurts." He understood.

"I cried in my room at night. It was overwhelming," Eaton said. "Here I was in a room with chocolates, fruits, room service and people calling me 'sir,' and delivering my luggage to my room, and right outside my window there were people living in dire poverty and idolatry. What right do I have to have such peace and fulfillment?"

Eaton said he saw two animal sacrifices to the Hindu goddess Kali, the destroyer goddess. He saw Hindu worshipers with goat's blood on their heads. "What was interesting was that the smell was so sweet from the flowers that the worshippers were throwing at the idol, and my senses were overwhelmed even more by the people inside who were yelling and smashing coconuts." The smashing of the coconuts in Hinduism symbolizes the destroying of one's self.

"The trip made me realize the beauty in the truth," Eaton said. "Everything there was so contradictory. It caused me to appreciate the simple life, and it brought out in me a desire for less and simplicity. It is such a blessing to know the truth and to serve a God that gives us true liberty."

During his trip, which took two

weeks out of the middle his busy semester, Eaton was reading two books for his classes back home: the book of *Jeremiah*, full of social injustice, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, a satire on racism. Both had a profound impact on him in light of the things he was seeing.

"I saw the repulsive, dirty Ganges River where for years, millions of dead bodies have been cremated and dumped," Eaton said. "The people think that they should be cremated and dumped into the Ganges River for union with God. They call it the river of purity, but it's sewage. They bathe in it and wash out their mouths in it. It made me realize that the Hindus lose their identity seeking union with God, but as Christians, God wants us to have communion with Him in which we remain the unique individual that He created us to be."

Eaton likened the Taj Mahal in Agra to Old Testament descriptions of the temple. "I have never seen anything so marvelous," Eaton said. "It was so big, symmetrical and the craftsmanship was incredible."

"During the trip, I was a big sponge," Eaton said. "I learned everything I could from all the other people on the trip. I was the only college student among about 40 amazing Christian business leaders, encouragers and challengers."

An added bonus of his experience was that he was able to secure an engineering internship this summer in Chattanooga, Tenn., with a business owner he met on the trip. The man was one of Zacharias' supporters.

Eaton says he wants his mechanical engineering education to be a tool to be used by God. "Engineering is formula driven, but people aren't that simple. You can't just fix people like you can fix something mechanical. People are relationally driven. We have to trust

in God to do it."

Eaton was one of five LETU students who have gone on Footprints trips. Academic deans recommend individual students to be considered for the experiences. After applying with written essays, students are ranked. Those selected are offered the opportunities.

Dr. Brent Ellis, director for the Center for the Development of Christian Leadership, administers the program.

"What we look for is a student who will represent the school well, will benefit from the experience and will impact our campus community through their presence on campus after returning," Ellis said. "Since not all of our students will have the opportunity, we are interested in providing these opportunities to students who will be around campus for a while after they return from their trip. Typically then, the experiences are provided for juniors or returning seniors."

Eaton said the trip also taught him more about God's incredible faithfulness.

"I was taking 17 hours of classes and still had homework to do while I was on the trip," he said. "Upon returning from this trip, I had seven tests to take and two speeches to give for student elections in which I ran for student body president. By God's grace I was elected. Then two weeks after returning from India, I helped lead a mission trip to a Navajo Indian reservation with Jessie Marshall, another student from LeTourneau. I didn't know how I was going to keep my head above water, but every step of the way God provided for all my needs."

Despite the pressures, Eaton fulfilled his responsibilities. "I learned that God wasn't going to offer me this great opportunity and leave me out on a limb." ■



From the Alumni Office

Written by Allison Gardner

HOMECOMING 2004

The Office of Alumni Relations is finalizing plans for Homecoming 2004, which will be **Oct. 8-10** on the campus in Longview. Save the date, and plan to join us for a great time as we reflect on our past and look to our future. Watch for a complete weekend schedule in the next issue of the NOW. Reunions are planned for the classes of 1954, 1964, 1979 and 1994, so call up your former roommates and have them join you in Longview. Travel and lodging information is available on the Web at www.letu.edu/alumni/homecominginfo.

NOMINATE AN ALUM

Do you know of any LeTourneau alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers, vocations, ministries or communities? Now is the time to let us know about them! Each year the Alumni Association presents awards during our Homecoming Weekend to alumni who have been nominated for excellence in service within their careers, churches, communities and the university. Go to www.letu.edu/alumni/awards and fill out our convenient online ballot. We look forward to reading about all of the wonderful things that LeTourneau alumni are doing throughout the world.

ALUMNI DIRECTORY

The 2004-05 alumni directory has finally arrived and will be shipped out to alumni who pre-ordered a copy last fall. If you haven't purchased your copy yet, contact us at 1-800-259-ALUM (2586), and we will get one to you right away. Directories are \$25 each.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN. . .

We were in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to accept an equipment donation from Rockwell Collins and enjoyed fellowship with alumni in the city. In Chicago we enjoyed visiting with alumni at Fox Valley Bible Church in St. Charles, Ill., and lunched together over a home-cooked meal of brisket (with Bodacious BBQ sauce!). While in Chicago, we visited the annual American Welding Society show, joining alumni for an after-show reception, and were honored to have Dr. Omer Blodgett as our guest for the evening. Dr. Robert Warke, assistant professor of welding engineering, provided a program update and answered questions.

ALASKA UPDATE

Summer is almost here and the dates for our Alaskan Adventure are drawing near! Picturesque Port Alsworth is calling, and you don't want to miss out on this opportunity to see Alaska "LeTourneau style." Complete information and a weekend itinerary can be viewed online at www.letu.edu/alumni/alaska, or you can contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 1-800-259-ALUM (2586) for complete information.

A registration form for the weekend is available online at www.letu.edu/alumni/alaskaregistration. We hope to see you there!

LeTourneau University Admissions Ambassadors

What's it really like to attend LeTourneau? Is living in a residence hall fun? Is there anywhere good to eat in town? How do you pronounce "LeTourneau"?

Questions like these are best answered face to face rather than in a brochure. That's why we've created the Admissions Ambassadors program to connect future LeTourneau students with alumni, parents and friends of the university. Choosing the right college is a big step in a young person's life. We want to make it as personalized as possible.

We know you lead a busy life, but becoming an Admissions Ambassador won't take up a lot of your time. We provide you with all the training materials you need to start in your role as an ambassador. Talk to students at your old high school, attend career fairs or just share information about LeTourneau with your church family. The location isn't important. The personal contact is.

To become a LeTourneau Admissions Ambassador, call Vanessa Bogan, coordinator of the LAA program, at 1-866-874-5388 or send an e-mail to LAA@letu.edu.



Calendar of Events

Alumni Events

JULY

10 Great Texas Balloon Race Picnic

AUGUST

5-8 Alaskan Adventure

26 Classes begin

OCTOBER

8-10 Homecoming

Campus Events

AUGUST

19-22 Fall IMPACT Retreat

SEPTEMBER

8-10 Spiritual Emphasis Week

11 Longview Blitz

17-18 Freshmen Retreat

20 Online MBA launch

OCTOBER

4-9 Fall Fest Week

9 Homecoming Talent Show

NOVEMBER

11-13 Fall Preview

DECEMBER

18 Graduation

Class Notes

MEMORIALS

John Blair ('50 MES) died Feb. 9, 2004. He was a longtime resident of Longview, Texas, and a member of First Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife, Helen.

Leonard Ray Coffman ('50) died April 3, 2004, in Longview, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Anita, two children, five grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Charles 'Van' Willis ('50 MES) died Feb. 13, 2004, in Longview, Texas. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Gwen.

Edward A. Laibach ('75 ME) died Jan. 8, 2004, in Columbus, Ohio, after a battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Dreama, and two daughters.

BIRTHS

Jay Knudsen ('88 ATBI) and wife Beth live in Westerville, Ohio, with their three children Rachel, Matthew and Nathan Daniel, who was born May 13, 2003.



Mike ('89 IM) and Cindy (Franklin) **Stephenson** have adopted a daughter, Mikayla Joy Muskaan, born January 30, 2004. They reside in Bonney Lake, Wash. where Mike is employed by Boeing as a systems administrator. Cindy is

a stay-at-home mom and has a home-based travel agency.

Richard Bringhurst ('90 CST) and wife Sharon announce the birth of their first child, Brian Lee Bringhurst, born Jan. 9, 2004.



Gary Hanson ('91 ATBS) and wife Anna had their second child, Adam Joseph Hanson, Dec. 31, 2003.

Damon Brown ('96 DT, '97 BSBM) and wife Tamee live in Green Bay, Wis., and have two sons and one daughter. Daughter Noelle was born Dec. 15, 2003.



Aaron McGrew ('97 ATFL) and wife Kelley have a son. Luke Corbett McGrew was born April 6, 2004. The couple also has a daughter, Hannah.



Ben ('97 ATFL) and Becky (Steiner) ('98 ATFL) Gambrell announce the birth of their son, David Andrew Gabriel Gambrell, born Jan. 11, 2004. The Gambrells also have a daughter, Abbey. The

Gambrell family recently moved to Bolivia where they work with South America Mission.

Nathan Rommel ('99 ME) and wife Jessica announce the birth of Simon Timothy Rommel, born March 9, 2004. The Rommels have two other children, Andrew and Katie.



Andrew ('01 ME) and Dacia **Olson** announce the birth of Abigail Joy Olson born April 15, 2004. The Olson's live in Champlin, Minn. where Andrew is an engineer for Medtronic.



Kimberly ('02 BBA) and Shiloh **Creel** live in Frisco, Texas, with twin sons Ian and Zade, who were born Aug. 8, 2003.

MARRIAGES

John ('95 ATFL) and **Michelle Channer** were married Sept. 12, 2003, in Toledo, Ohio. They currently live in Panama City, Fla.



Frances Miawama ('97 CST) married Cheree Rumley June 2003 in New York. Frances works with Hewlett Packard as a Unix systems analyst manager at Qwest



Communication Cyber Data Center in Chicago. Cheree is an IT project manager with Cingular Wireless.

Laura Wiley ('02 BBA) married Jay Davis May 10, 2003. The Davis' live in Grandview, Texas, where Laura is a manufacturing engineer for Lockheed Martin.

Emmy Ansinelli ('03 MK) married Shawn D. Lindsey Jan. 24, 2004, in White Oak, Texas.

Jon Manley ('03 ATBS) married Elizabeth Perry March 20, 2004, in Macon, Ga. Jon works as a flight instructor at LeTourneau University.

ALUM NEWS

John Bradshaw ('65 CT) and wife Karen celebrated their 40th anniversary in June. The Bradshaws live in Mechanicsburg, Penn. They have two daughters and five grandchildren.

Tom Pace ('66 MI) and wife Carolyn have been serving the Lord in Peru since 1967. They are currently in the United States for a short furlough.

Johnny Bradberry ('73 IE) has been named the secretary of Louisiana's Department of Transportation and Development. Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco announced the appointment in March. Johnny recently retired from ConocoPhillips in Houston, Texas, and returned to his home state of Louisiana.

Jim ('78 ATBS) and Julie ('77 RE) (Niewald) MacKay and live in Corunna, Mich., where Julie teaches fourth grade and Jim teaches high school auto mechanics. They have three children. Daughter Lisa and her husband, Matthew, live in Florida; son Andrew lives in California; and daughter Rachel attends the University of Michigan. Contact them at maccormi@michonline.net.

Norm Kopesky ('78 ETAT) and wife Sue live in Wisconsin where Norm has worked with Gulfstream Aerospace for more than 21 years. Their family includes son Nathaniel and his wife, Sara; Justin; Molly; Jesse; and Norman III, his wife, Heather, and their son, Norman IV.

Bruce Shauger ('79 ATBS) and wife Elsa live in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where Bruce works for Rockwell Collins. They have three children: T.C., Daniel and Christi.

Mike McCord ('82 ATBS) and wife Julia work with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Nairobi, Kenya. They have three children: Sarah, Katie and Steven.

Nathan Puzey ('83 WE) and wife Janet live in Lynchburg, Va., where Nathan works with BWX Technologies' nuclear products division in the welding engineering area. The Puzey's have three children: Caleb, Josh and Emily.

Ken Daniels ('90 CSE) and wife Charlene live in Duncanville, Texas, where Ken works for



Golden Rule Software developing handheld and PC-based home health programs. Charlene runs their household and volunteers at the Wycliffe Linguistics Center while studying to become a medical claims and billing specialist. They have three children: David, Corinne and Philip.

Jon Woodworth ('90 AUT), wife Becky and their four children are home on furlough from Kenya where they work with Masters Mission. Their temporary home is in Greenville, Texas.

Becky ('92) (Miller) Karnsund and husband Pontus have been appointed CBI missionaries to Spain. They have two daughters, Keila and Nicole. Becky's parents, John and Linda Miller, are now living in Arizona. They are former LeTourneau Missionaries in Residence.



Steve ('93 ATBS) and Amy ('93 BUBS) (Shepherd) Ratzlaff and their boys, Brady and Caleb, live in Thomasville, Fla. Steve is a pilot for Flowers Industries while Amy is a stay-at-home mother and stays active in community and church activities.

Brent Palmer ('94 ATFL), wife Melanie and their family have returned to Indonesia where they work with MAF. The Palmers have three children: Jennifer, Jordan and Eric.

April Steele ('94 HIPL), assistant district attorney for Collin County, Texas, was promoted to the family justice division of the district attorney's office where she will prosecute juvenile crime. April is married to **Galen Steele ('93 MABA)** and they have two daughters.

Sean Brittain ('97 CHPY) completed his Ph.D. in astrophysics at the University of Notre Dame. He was awarded the Eli J. and Helen Shaheen graduate school award for outstanding graduate research. Sean will be a Michelson Fellow at the National Optical Astronomy Observatory in the fall. Sean and wife Elizabeth live in Notre Dame, Ind., with their two-year-old daughter, Olivia.

James Weber ('98 ATFL) and wife Becca live in Montara, Calif., where Jim works as an airline pilot. They have three children: Jonathan, 3; Amara, 2; and Isaac, 1.



Robert Whitfield ('00 BBM) was accepted into the Volunteer Usher Corps of the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. He serves one weekend a month at the National Cathedral.

Leif ('01 CS) and Elizabeth (Bitikofer) ('01 ENGL) Wickland live in Bozeman, Mont., where Leif works as a software engineer for RightNow Technologies. Elizabeth teaches 3-10th grade Latin at Petra Academy.

Brian ('02 BBM) Brody and wife Marian live in Sherman, Texas. They have four children: Matthew, Daniel, David and Benjamin. Their first grandchild, Mary Ellen, was born in January.

Crystal Greenslate ('02 BUBS) graduated with a master's degree in nonprofit management from Regis University in summer 2004. She is the founder and director of Jacobs Institute, a nonprofit organization that provides free housing and education to the homeless.

Brad Hopkins ('02 ATFL) and wife Rebecca are officially working with MAF. They recently moved to Indiana and are making plans to move to Kalimantan, Indonesia. Contact them at BHopkins@maf.org.

FACULTY / STAFF



After living 40 years in East Texas, **Leta Fae Arnold**, retired LETU English professor, is moving back to her childhood home. Those who wish to discuss their

writing grade or King's Garden may contact her after Aug. 1 at: 1113 Cortlandt St., Houston, TX 77008, phone 713-869-8186.

NOTICES

Reunion - Class of 1959 - 1966

Will Hyslop ('65 MT) and wife Dorothy are planning a special reunion for the classes of 1959-1966. This reunion will take place during Homecoming 2005. If you attended LeTourneau during these years and are interested in this reunion, please let us know. Will and Dorothy would love your help and suggestions. Contact them at hyslop@homeinternet.net or 208-466-2868.

Alumni Mission Project in Europe

Carey Holmquist ('86 MI) is the director of EuroTeam for Greater Europe Mission. Carey has opportunities in 2005 for an alumni team project in Europe. Projects could include building repair and demolition including plumbing, painting, electrical work, tiling, landscaping and more. There also is an opportunity for medical outreach and teaching English as a second language to all ages. Carey will be in the United States this summer and would like to know if alumni are interested so he will know how to plan. Contact the Alumni Office at 1-800-259-ALUM if you are interested or want additional information.

Shaped By Love

for the Lord



Jose and Sheree Cosa

Jose and Sheree Cosa's lives have been shaped by their love for the Lord, their family and LeTourneau University. That, in part, is what led the couple to include the university in their estate plans.

"When setting up our family trust we wanted to include those organizations that were important to us and reflected the beliefs and values that we have," Sheree said. "Our families gave us a firm foundation to build our lives on: Christian values and beliefs and a strong work ethic. We were taught that if you love your work, you will enjoy it...and it won't be work."

"We have worked hard, and God has directed and blessed our lives," she said. "We are at a point where we can give back and further God's kingdom. LeTourneau fits in perfectly."

Jose and Sheree met in Minnesota and attended LeTourneau together. Jose earned his degree in aviation technology/mechanical technology. Sheree chose business. They graduated in 1979 and married in November. The couple now lives in Broken Arrow, Okla., where Jose is a partner in SCFM Compression Systems Co., a company that provides gas compression equipment to the energy industry – both in sales and leasing of the units. Sheree is a consultant for Consolidated Printing Solutions, the largest sheet-fed printer in the United States.

Their experiences at LeTourneau and the people they met along the way made a positive impact on their lives. "We are grateful to have attended LeTourneau – the close friends that we met there, we still keep in touch with today," said Sheree. "The staff were not only instructors, but advisers and friends. Jose worked on campus first as a janitor, then as a breakfast cook. I worked in the admissions office with Steve Adell and Linda Fitzhugh. They were great mentors."

"We need places that will train our next generation – leaders who will make a difference – who will make those tough decisions and not back down. Why do we give to LeTourneau? We want to see this cycle continue, and as LeTourneau graduates, we will make a difference each in our own little corner." ■

- ☐ Please send me more information about how I can give to LeTourneau University.
- ☐ I am considering a provision for LeTourneau University and would like someone to call me.
- ☐ I have not previously informed you, but I have included LeTourneau University in my estate plans through:
- ☐ my will ☐ a trust arrangement ☐ an insurance policy ☐ other _____



Bryan Benson

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Mail to: Bryan Benson, Director of Development, LeTourneau University, P.O. Box 7333, Longview, TX 75607,
or visit our Web site at www.letu.edu/plannedgiving • (800) 259-5388, (903) 233-3809

Worship in Action

"...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." —Matthew 25:40

The greatest act of worship often takes place outside the four walls of the church. The greatest learning experiences often take place outside the classroom. Every spring break, hundreds of LeTourneau students travel the world on missions trips spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. These pictures share a small glimpse of one summer missions trip that LeTourneau students made to Aguascalientes, Mexico.



Get your MBA online from LeTourneau University

Imagine the joy of kicking back on your sofa with your laptop, clad in your favorite pair of sweats while you earn your MBA. No fighting rush hour traffic in a frenzy to make it to class on time. No more having to choose between working late and attending class. Now you can do both.

LeTourneau University is now enrolling students for its online MBA program, which launches Sept. 20. Students can choose from five degree specializations—finance, human resource management, international business, marketing and management.

To find out more about the online MBA, go to:

www.letu.edu/mbatestdrive

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